



September 2011 Praise Letter

Praises

New visitors to Berea Baptist

Another family started to support us this month

God has provided all our teachers at SCA for this semester.

Prayer Requests

Health for entire family during winter season

Needed support—currently at 79% (Short \$1,502 monthly)

Wisdom for new church plant decisions

Wisdom during this tough transition and moving between houses

Wisdom in preaching and outreach at church.

Mailing Address in Chile

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Dear Friends and Supporters,

As I write this letter this morning, it is September 11th. I am looking out the window on the third floor of our house and I can see the new flowers on the trees, blue skies, and the towering Andean mountains many miles away. On the surface all appears lovely and fine, but September 11th holds special significance for both the U.S. and Chile for different reasons, and it includes many tears, destruction, and loss of life.

The lives of many of the people we meet and deal with every day are very much the same – on the surface all appears fine, but underneath, where nobody wants to look, there is much pain and frustration. We praise God that in his Word that we can find answers to those problems, and peace to ease the times of hardship in our lives.

This past month here in Chile has been an interesting time. Currently the vast majority of the schools have still not opened for the school year (should have opened over 2 months ago) because the students have occupied all the state run schools and universities as they fight for a better education system. As you walk by some of the schools you will see chairs piled up and stuck through the gates with giant signs bringing attention to their plight. This has caused some problems as because of this school stoppage, we have seen some giant protests and fights in the streets at night, at times with massive amounts of damage. We as ABWE had to cancel school out our seminary and M.K. school because of safety and transportation issues.



Our church plant in Ciudad Satelite continues to move along, but truth be told, slower than what we would like. One problem (as least for Heather and I) is that if we are out talking to anybody and mention we are missionaries, the automatic response is to ask if we are Jehovah's Witnesses or if we are Mormons. These two groups are extremely active here, and so as American missionaries, we are almost always lumped in with them. As such, if we mention we are missionaries, we need to immediately state that we are not related to the Jehovah's Witnesses or the Mormon.

The second obstacle is that Doug basically has a full-time job with the ABWE Chile finances, and the day that he normally has out of the office is spent studying for Sundays. Likewise, our Chilean pastor, Marcelo, works full-time, and helps with

the youth program at the mother church of our church plant, and so he is greatly limited for time as well. That being said we still have visitors coming to the church, and some new people have come and have been faithful in coming to church each week. Just about every time that Heather and I go out into the city we take our invitation pamphlets and have handed out hundreds of them to people near our house and in the parks. The past three weeks it seems it has rained every Sunday, so that has not been helpful as several people walk to church, but Lord willing today is better with the sun that has come out this morning.

As for our family, we are still alive. Living on one side of the city with the church, but having work and school on the other side has been difficult. Hannah and I had to take the bus to school one day and it took 2 hours – makes for a rough start to the morning. On average when we drive it takes 1 hour each way unless we take the highway the whole distance, but the tolls are really quite expensive. Please continue to pray for Caleb and Hannah as the longer schedule (sometimes 12 hours out of the house) has been difficult for them at times. Doug also damaged his left knee while skiing up in the mountains since the last prayer letter but we think everything is just about healed up now—this after both an ultrasound and an MRI on his left knee.

Currently Doug is teaching through the doctrine of sin in our church, and will also be sharing in the SCA chapel for high school next Wednesday. Heather will be talking at a ladies retreat on Saturday 24th where they are expecting roughly 150 ladies. They are expecting that many of those ladies will be unsaved, so this is a great opportunity that God has opened up for Heather.

Please continue to pray for our family and all the transition that we are going through. It was this time last year that we found out about Elizabeth and Esther, and since then we completed the adoption process, changed churches, changed houses, and all the other things involved in those changes. It has been exciting to say the least, but also very tiring at times.

Thank you so much for your prayers!!

Douglas

DOUG & HEATHER & KIDS



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Various photos of the kids from the last two months—how they grow so fast!!